

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE  
Week ending the 30th December 1899.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December has the following:—

The Transvaal war.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.

No one can say how the Boer war will end. The Boers have grown into a great military power without the knowledge of the world. Who knew that the poor Boers could procure arms and ammunition on such a large scale? The Boers have always been known for their sharp-shooting. They were never before engaged in such a great war as the present; yet the Boer Generals have given striking proofs of skill and generalship. Owing to a serious blunder committed by the Colonial Secretary, the fortified towns on the frontiers of Natal and Cape Colony are in the hands of the Boers, and British troops have failed to dislodge the enemy from their positions. But this does not prove want of courage on the part of the British troops. In their position, French, German and Russian troops would not have fared better.

We do not know what course will be adopted by the Government in this crisis. Another twenty thousand troops are going to be sent to South Africa, and, if required, England can pour innumerable troops into the Transvaal. But will reinforcements conquer the Boers? Judging from the courage and stubbornness shown by them from the very beginning, one is certainly justified in saying that they will not yield if they are not extirpated. British prestige will not suffer if such a brave nation as the Boers are allowed to enjoy their liberty. To conclude a peace with the Boers now will do no harm; but British prestige will greatly suffer if England is compelled to conclude a peace after reinforcements have failed to conquer the Boers. Those who are advising England to send reinforcements to South Africa to conquer the Boers have no doubt great faith in British strength and resources, but their opinion is one-sided. The Boer preparations for war are by no means insignificant. What Mr. Gladstone foresaw twenty years ago has now come to pass.

2. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rampur Boalia] of the 20th December says that, on the 17th December last, at the end of the eclipse of the moon, hymns were chanted in honour of the goddess Chandi, and worship was offered to the

Prayer and *pūja* for British victory in the Transvaal war.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

gods Vishnu and Siva in the Banewar temple established by the Boalia Dharma Sabha, with prayers for a victory to mother Victoria, Empress of India, in the Boer war, and on the 19th December a *Hari Sankirtan* was held with the same object. May the Almighty do good to Her Majesty, and may the British flag be planted in Pretoria.

3. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December fails to make out the reason of the Viceroy's recent proclamation of the war in South Africa, seeing that the war has been in progress for months past.

The Viceroy's proclamation of the South African war.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

4. Referring to the *Hitavadi's* recent accusation against the authorities in Ladysmith that they refused shelter to the Indians who had been expelled from the Transvaal (Report on Native Papers for the 23rd December, 1899, para-

The *Hitavadi's* accusation of the Ladysmith authorities.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

graph 5), the editor of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 22nd December observes that it is undoubtedly a stain on the name of the British colonists in Natal and elsewhere in South Africa that they not only refuse equal rights to the Indians, but also treat them unkindly. But, under existing circumstances, when Ladysmith is standing a siege with short provisions, would it not have been quite improper for the authorities of the place to admit therein a large number of non-militants, who would have served only to consume the already reduced food store?

5. The English press, writes the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December, set the rumour afloat that the Boers were ill-treating the British prisoners and preventing the British officers captured by them from writing to their relatives. An Englishman, however, writes from Dum-Dum contradicting this rumour, and stating that a British prisoner has written a letter to Dum-Dum from Pretoria. Lord Methuen states in his despatch that the wounded British prisoners in the hands of the Boers are being very well treated. Those who unjustly malign other people are extremely low-minded.

Boer treatment of British prisoners.

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.



HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

6. The same paper writes as follows:—

The present aspect of the Transvaal war.

This week's news from the seat of war is extremely gloomy. The British have been defeated by the Boers in two important battles. The British, who, it is no exaggeration to say, can displace heaven and earth, have been defeated by the enemy for their fault and indulgence in luxury. What could be a greater misfortune than this? In the action at Stormberg the British troops lost their sense and fled in all directions. British troops never acted so ignominiously as in this battle.

India has already sent ten thousand troops to South Africa, and it is said that more troops will have to be sent from here. There are already more than a lakh of British troops in the field. But more troops are required, and not only India and the Colonies have been called upon to send more troops, but the British public have been called upon to go to the field. This shows what a serious aspect the Transvaal war has assumed.

Some of the volunteers in India have offered their services to the Government, but we do not know whether their offer will be accepted. The British Navy has been ordered to be always ready for action. It may be inferred from this that complications have arisen between England and some other European Power. We fail to understand whether all these preparations are intended for the ruin of the Transvaal.

BANGA BANDHU,  
Dec. 23rd, 1899.

7. The *Banga Bandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 23rd December has the following:—

England in the Transvaal war.

Acting on the representation of a handful of English merchants, and with a view of maintaining its own prestige, the English Government finds itself at this moment beset with grave danger. Everything depends on the will of Providence.

England has not for a long time past suffered such loss as she is suffering in this Boer war. Though in India she suffered loss in the Sepoy Mutiny, it is doubtful whether she suffered so shamefully as she is doing now.

Whatever difficulties and dangers the Boers may at the present moment create for the English, they will never be able to bring the war to a successful termination. If the English had found an opportunity for sending Gurkha troops to South Africa, the Boer name would have long before been extinguished. Cannot Indian troops be sent now? Possibly there is some objection to that course.

In seeking to terrify those petty, insignificant creatures, the Boers, by frowning looks, most powerful England now finds herself in danger. In trying to vanquish the unwarlike Boer peasants, world-conquering England now finds herself vanquished by them. In the civilised world England is now hanging down her head. Those English soldiers who regarded the Boers as common peasants, and said in a spirit of defiance that they would defeat them in two days and return to England before Christmas, are now found, under the much-too-hard Boer guns and rifles, to admit that the Boers are truly a fighting people. Those English soldiers who, in their belief that the Boers were ill-equipped and lacked modern arms and ammunition, proudly marched to the Transvaal are now compelled by their experience of Boer tactics, of Boer artillery practice, and of the unerring aim of Boer sharpshooters, which has led to heavy casualties in the ranks of British officers, to admit that the Boers are truly a fighting people. Thanks to the valour of the Boer General, General White is now invested at Ladysmith, Generals Gatacre and Methuen are vanquished, and the Commander-in-Chief himself, General Buller, has met with a reverse which has reduced his army. The Boer war has cost General Symons his life, and General Yule his health. To-day England is startled and is thinking in her mind of her reverses. Having realised her danger she is downcast. There are not many more heroic Generals, many more well-equipped troops ready. It is possible she may be driven out of South Africa, it is possible her ascendancy over the Suez Canal may be destroyed, it is possible she may lose her power in this dearly-cherished India. England's despondency is clearly reflected in the English press. One day the English newspapers are saying everything is lost; the next day, to maintain their prestige intact, they are saying no fear. One day they say there is no longer room for hope; but it is said the very next day that the



situation is not after all very bad. The world-conquering English army had to fly for their lives from the battle field (of course, the flight was effected with skill). The enemy captured the English guns, (according to English papers, the English soldiers were obliged to come away, leaving their guns behind). The English Generals do not venture to advance further, (according to English papers, this is but saying that the English Generals are occupying a place of safety.) The soldiers have been put on reduced rations (of course, the English will say that the soldiers are voluntarily eating less and that there is no lack of provisions.) Is there anything which can indicate a more perilous situation? The French are saying that English defeat is inevitable. Germany is saying that England will be defeated. Is not the situation, then, alarming? England has been able to do nothing with a lakh of troops, and has been repeatedly defeated. She is now saying she will send another lakh. Is this, too, a good sign? If the Boers have to be defeated with two lakhs of soldiers, such defeat will be a Boer victory, and such victory will be an English defeat, because the whole of Europe has now understood what the power of the English is; has now understood that it is only by intimidation that England gets her object accomplished, and that everything within is unsubstantial.

8. The *Bangabhumī* [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that England's greed of wealth is not the cause of the Transvaal war. Nor has the war been brought about by her pride. England's desire to maintain her rights in the Transvaal may be, as it undoubtedly is, one of the causes of this Boer war; but the principal cause is the strong love and affection which, as a mother, she feels for her sons in South Africa. This may sound strange and appear unintelligible to eminent statesmen, but it is nevertheless the fact. Ever since the sixteenth century large numbers of Englishmen have left their homes in England and planted prosperous colonies in different continents. England has always watched their growth and expansion with a mother's solicitude, and has from time to time freely spent blood and treasure to promote their welfare. But the colonists, on their part, have failed to prove grateful sons. They have proved refractory and resented even the mildest reproofs and remonstrances. This war in South Africa is the latest exhibition of her desire to conciliate a number of Englishmen who had gone there as labourers to earn a livelihood, and who have now become millionaires. It is significant that, while heroic Englishmen belonging to the best families in England are hastening in crowds to the Transvaal to fight the Boers and maintain the good name of their country, the fugitive Uitlanders are crowding the hotels in Capetown and helplessly bewailing the loss of the wealth they have left behind. Let success attend British arms in South Africa, and let the English army return victorious to their country. But they should not, when they come back, forget to bring those spoilt Uitlanders with them, even by force if necessary. These men will get plenty of employment in Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham.

BANGABHUMI,  
Dec. 26th, 1899.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

9. A correspondent, writing in the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 19th December, says that, on the 7th December last, a gentleman found a poor man dying on the road north of the palace in Burdwan town. The gentleman was nursing the man and trying to make him speak, when a constable came and abused and kicked the man, and the poor man was rather roughly handled by the two stalwart fellows who came to take him to hospital. Perhaps this rough handling has caused his death.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.

10. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December publishes a letter from a correspondent, drawing the attention of the police authorities to the movements of two *fakirs* who are showing magic to the residents of Astaka, a village in the Mymensingh district.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.



SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

11. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st December, which complains of the prevalence of cooly-recruitment abuses, and mentions some cases of fraudulent recruitment in the Singhbhum district, writes as follows:—

Thanks to the exertions of Babu Haridas Basu, the worthy Sub-Inspector of the Ghatsila police-station, district Singhbhum, the number of cases of fraudulent recruitment has been considerably diminished. We hear that Haridas Babu has been promoted to the post of an Inspector, and will shortly be sent to Mymensingh to suppress outrages against women. We are glad to hear of his promotion, but we fear to think how the people of this unfortunate district will fare when he leaves the place. We therefore ask our kindhearted Lieutenant-Governor to keep him at least for sometime in this place as a special Inspector for the suppression of fraudulent cooly-recruitment.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Dec. 24th, 1899.

12. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th December complains of the high-handed conduct of Shaikh Rahimuddin, collecting panchayat of the Union composed of the villages Madhyapara and Malpadia within the jurisdiction of the Srinagar thana in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district. He enhanced the chaukidari tax last year three or four times without consulting the other panchayats. His assessment was quite arbitrary. He also exacted half an anna or one anna from several tax-payers for his own dress.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.

13. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December complains that the provisions of Act II (B.C.) of 1899 are not being rigidly enforced in the appointment of Court *amins*. The object of this Act is to have the work of a Court *amin* done by a pleader. Almost all pleaders in these days pass the B. L. examination, and are as a rule well versed in trigonometry. The graduates of the Calcutta University are often teachers in Survey schools, the passed students of which are generally appointed Court *amins*. That the pleaders are very well qualified to do the work of Court *amins* goes without saying.

It is said that the local Water-works Engineer has been appointed a Commissioner in two partition suits. One fails to understand how the Engineer will perform his new duty without neglecting the duties of a Water-works Engineer. Moreover, it is against the purpose of the law to appoint one unconnected with a Law Court as a Commissioner. The pleaders are guided by the opinion of the Bar Library, and are also under the direct control of the Court. They are, therefore, not likely to do injustice.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

14. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 20th December has the following:—

Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate  
of Midnapore.

In a recent case Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, issued a summons against a witness, but the summons was not served and the witness did not appear. The Deputy Magistrate, therefore, issued a warrant for his appearance, and the witness was arrested and brought to Court after the case had been decided. The witness knew nothing of the summons, and it was not his fault that the warrant was executed against him too late. But the Deputy Magistrate sent him to *hajat*, from which he has been released by the Sessions Judge. One fails to understand under what law the witness was sent to *hajat*.

In a paddy-cutting case, the complainant produced no witness on the day when the case was called for hearing. He had been repeatedly told to produce his witnesses on that day. It was clear that no witness was produced solely through the negligence of the complainant, and that there was no satisfactory evidence against the defendants; and yet the Deputy Magistrate sent all the accused, excepting one, to *hajat* and postponed the case, saying that he must put down this practice of paddy-cutting by punishing some one or other. The mukhtar of the accused prayed for their release on bail, but the Deputy Magistrate refused to hear him. The Sessions Judge was moved, and the accused were enlarged on bail.



## (d)—Education.

15. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 20th December writes that the District Board of Midnapore proposed to found a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month in the local technical school. But the proposal has not yet been carried out, and it is said that the District Board has given it up for want of funds. It is rather strange that the Board, which has unhesitatingly, increased the pay of its District Engineer, should plead want of means for founding a scholarship. Considering the usefulness of technical education in these days, it is hoped that the Board will reconsider their decision and will not fail to encourage the students of the Technical School.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following:—  
In one of our previous issues we had occasion to criticise the conduct of Mr. Reuther, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division. The *Moslem Chronicle* is dissatisfied with us for this, and insinuates we wrote against Mr. Reuther because he has shown Musalman sympathy, and expressed himself satisfied with the work done by Musalman Deputy Inspectors. We fail to understand, however, what has led the editor of the *Chronicle* to attribute such improper motive to us.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

17. Referring to the complaints made in a recent issue of the *Sanjivani* against Mr. Reuther, Inspector of Schools (Report on Native Papers for 2nd December, paragraph 16), the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Dec. 22nd 1899.

Our contemporary of the *Sanjivani* has become exasperated in consequence of Mr. Reuther's recording unfavourable remarks against the Assistant Inspector, Kumud Babu. The Babus want the Europeans to be puppets in their hands. But Mr. Reuther is not a man to be made a plaything of. He wants to see everything with his own eyes. He rewards merit and censures those whom he finds at fault. Kumud Babu thought himself as the *de facto* head of the Education Department in Dacca. He was, however, disillusioned by Mr. Reuther, who refused to sign the Educational Report which was prepared by him. Instead of blindly signing that report, Mr. Reuther put into it remarks of his own, and some remarks about the condition of Muhammadan education, and this has completely disturbed the equanimity of the *Sanjivani*.

Among other causes of the *Sanjivani's* displeasure against Mr. Reuther the following may be mentioned:—(1) Mr. Reuther's protest against the Dacca District Board's appointment of an incompetent Hindu in the post of a Sub-Inspector; (2) his asking Kumud Babu to explain why he gave no reason for the falling off by four or five thousand in the number of Musalman students in the Dacca district during the year 1898-99; (3) his rejection of Kumud Babu's scheme for discontinuing the services of the Additional Sub-Inspector of Faridpur.

Mr. Reuther's mode of inspection appears curious to the *Sanjivani*, simply because that officer has incurred its displeasure by showing sympathy in the cause of Musalman education. It knows perfectly well that the host of Native Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, not excepting its client, Kumud Babu himself, are all in the habit of sometimes inspecting schools seated in their boats, and by sending for the teachers to wait upon them with their pupils and inspection books. The practice of inspecting at night is also no innovation of Mr. Reuther's introduction.

We are not in a position to state how far the *Sanjivani's* allegations against Mr. Reuther regarding his acceptance of presents are correct. But it is known that all Hindu inspecting officers are in the habit of accepting presents, and that they even go the length of reducing or stopping the aid which is given to, or recording bad remarks against, the schools which fail to make presents to their liking. A Sub-Inspector of the Dacca Circle once came to grief because he could not supply a certain officiating Hindu Inspector of the circle with 10 seers of ghee which was demanded of him. There is now a Hindu Deputy Inspector, who has purchased on credit from the Secretary of a certain aided school timber worth Rs. 200 to Rs. 300, and has not yet paid off his debt. Mathura Babu, Sub-Inspector of Tangail, can tell the *Sanjivani* whether our statement is correct or not.



## (e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BASUMATI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

18. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st December complains that the Calcutta Municipality is somewhat liberally granting licenses for hide godowns all over the town. The number of hide godowns is very large in Ward No. 8, which is a densely populated ward. These godowns have proved a veritable nuisance to the residents. The roads cannot be properly swept, and cannot be served by scavenger carts on account of their being always blocked by hide carts. Some steps should be taken to prevent the hide godowns and the hide traffic from proving a source of nuisance to the public.

NAVA YUG,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

19. With reference to the case in which Babu Upendra Nath Rai Chaudhuri sued the South Suburban Municipality for damage done to his carriage while driving in Ward No. 8 of that Municipality, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following:—

The damages awarded will surely be paid from the municipal fund. But it is not right to make the rate-payers suffer for the negligence and fault of those municipal employes who are responsible for such accidents as formed the subject matter of this suit. These negligent municipal employes ought to be dismissed or made to pay the damages awarded.

NAVA YUG.

20. The same paper has the following:—

Sanitary inspection in Calcutta. The plague scare has led to the appointment of special Health Inspectors whose duty it is to look after the sanitation of the town. But we see that they are making no sanitary inspection. The northern quarter of the town is extremely unclean and filthy. There is a filthy privy in Ward No. 3 which is an intolerable nuisance. The privy is uncovered, and is causing the occupants of the neighbouring houses great annoyance and injury. The Health Inspector of Ward No. 3 is an indolent man and loses his temper if any complaint is made to him. A complaint was made to the Health Officer about this filthy privy, but he has done nothing to remove the nuisance.

## (f)—Questions affecting the land.

BANGAVASI,  
Dec. 23rd, 1899.

21. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December writes as follows:—

The relations between zamindars and raiyats in Bengal.

The relations between the zamindars and their raiyats in this country are being more and more estranged. There were formerly no quarrels between zamindars and raiyats, and the latter were very much attached to the former. Raiyats did not formerly go to law so often as they do now to have their quarrels with the zamindars settled. The Board of Revenue regrets this estrangement of feeling, but hopes that the old friendly relation between zamindars and raiyats will be restored. We fail to understand how. This estrangement of feeling is no doubt due to the multiplicity of the law courts. That this is so was admitted, even by a man like the late Justice Dwarkanath Mitter. The relation between the zamindars and their raiyats may assume a gloomier aspect in future, and the wave of socialism may shake India to its foundations.

## (g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.

22. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December complains of

Communication between Tangail and Mymensingh.

want of facility of communication between Tangail and Mymensingh. In the absence of a steamer service, the Tangail public are not in a position to avail themselves of the rail. A great inconvenience of the passengers will be removed if the Assam mail train be so timed as to convey the Tangail passengers to Porabari in the morning, and if the evening train be timed to leave Jagannathganj after the steamer has reached that station.

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

23. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 20th December complains that there is no waiting room at the Khargapur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. There is a small shed at the station, which is intended to

The Khargapur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.



serve the purpose of a waiting room. It is open on all sides, and practically affords no shelter to passengers in the cold season. Articles of food are not also available at the station. There is a sweetmeat stall, but the sweetmeat sold there is quite unfit for human consumption. The station staff does not properly behave with the passengers. The other day some native ladies with their male escorts, who were compelled to travel first class with second class tickets, were put to trouble by the guard and some ticket-collectors. The station privy for passengers is very filthy.

24. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following:—

Further suggestions for rail-ways.

There should be separate passages to a station platform for male and female passengers. At present female passengers are promiscuously mixed up with male passengers in their passage to a platform. Women are naturally modest, and become confounded when in the hurry and jostle and scramble for the train they are compelled to make a way for themselves in the crowd of male passengers. It is hoped that the railway authorities will make better arrangements for the convenience of female passengers in this respect.

The female carriages attached to a train should be so placed as to be exactly in front of the separate passage to the platform which will be provided for them. Both in the East Indian and in the Eastern Bengal State Railway there are carriages specially constructed for female passengers. But such carriages are not attached to local trains. This is against railway rules, and it is hoped that the railway authorities will more strictly conform to those rules.

It will also be advisable to divide a female carriage into two parts, one to be used exclusively by females, and the other by their male escorts. This will prevent assaults and oppressions from being committed upon female passengers so often as at present. It will be a great convenience to female passengers if the female carriage in a train is so placed as to be always in front of the female waiting room at any station. At present much time is necessarily lost by passengers in finding out the female carriages in a train, and the result sometimes is that a female passenger fails to get into the train whilst her male escort does, or *vice versa*. Much difficulty is also experienced in getting down from a train. At some stations the platforms are too low, causing passengers, especially female passengers, very great inconvenience. These platforms should be raised. The platforms at the Goalundo, Damukdia Ghat and Sara Ghat stations are dangerously low.

25. A correspondent complains in the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December of the insufficient supply of coal wagons

The Kalipahari station on the East Indian Railway.

by the East Indian Railway Company, which is causing the coal merchants and proprietors of coal mines a good deal of loss. This fact has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the railway authorities, but they have done nothing to remove this grievance.

There is no platform at the Kalipahari station on the East Indian Railway. It is a regret that the railway authorities have ignored the complaints of the passengers on this score. Great inconvenience and trouble is caused to passengers by the absence of a platform.

A road connecting the Grand Trunk Road with the railway station is urgently needed, and it is hoped that the railway authorities will order the construction of such a road for the convenience of those who have to travel on foot by the Grand Trunk Road, but who will, no doubt, avail themselves of the railway line if the proposed branch road is constructed.

(h)—General.

26. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 14th December says that the roadside letter boxes in Barisal ought to be cleared

Postal service in Barisal town.

oftener than they are at present. But it will be difficult to carry out this proposal if the boxes are not cleared by peons on bicycles instead of by peons on foot. In Delhi and other places the former method of clearing letter-boxes has been tried with great success.

BASUMATI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

SAMAY,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Dec. 14th, 1899.



CHARU MIHIR,  
Dec. 19th, 1899.

27. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th December has the following:—

Lord Curzon at the Lucknow Darbar.

The Lucknow Darbar was held with great éclat. In his speech, Lord Curzon lucidly and clearly explained the object of a Darbar, and the nature of the existing relations between the Government and the Oudh *talukdars*. Some of the principles on which the British administrative policy in India is based were also criticised by His Excellency. The sincerity of Lord Curzon's speech has exceedingly pleased us. Nothing could be higher and nobler than what the Viceroy explained to be the object of a Darbar. "An open speech and a clear understanding," observed His Excellency, "between the Queen's representative and her trusted lieges are essential to the solidarity of a dominion which is built upon the co-operation of both." Let these words serve as a motto for both the rulers and the ruled.

Lord Elgin spoke of the concentration of power for the establishment of peace and security in the country. The Sedition Law and the Calcutta Municipal Act are proofs of this concentration of power. We need not say how miserably have the people suffered on account of these two measures. Lord Curzon has admitted that the rulers or their deputies can no longer live with impunity in the clouds of Olympus, but must descend from the hill-tops and visit the abodes of men. Lord Curzon repeatedly referred to Clemency Canning in his speech. May he walk in the footsteps of that large-hearted and high-minded ruler!

SANSODHINI,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

28. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 20th December has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor in Chittagong.

Two things in the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the address of the Chittagong District Board have created apprehension in the public mind. His Honour said that Mr. Manisty's action in reducing educational expenditure was not an improper measure, but only a hasty one. The members of the District Board should not take this as a hint for curtailing educational expenditure. Want of funds is the reason of Sir John Woodburn's advocacy of retrenchment. His Honour does not intend that the spread of education in the country should be stopped. His Honour's hint at the time of opening the jetty in the railway Dabal Muri Ghat, that Chittagong might be transferred to Assam, was also not pleasant to the people of Chittagong. The people of Chittagong will consider themselves injured if transfer is actually made.

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

29. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Chittagong.

With reference to the Chittagong College, the Lieutenant-Governor observed that only eight or ten students passed the B. A. examination from Chittagong every year, and the Government could not, therefore, afford to spend more than twenty-three thousand rupees a year on its account. These remarks do not satisfy us. There is a first class College in every division in Bengal, and His Honour admits that Chittagong is making rapid progress since the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway. Why, then, should Chittagong be deprived of the benefit which is being enjoyed by every other division in Bengal? The Lieutenant-Governor cannot deny that it is almost impossible for the poor Chittagong students to go to Calcutta or Dacca to prosecute their studies. The Government will not have to incur a large expense in opening B. A. classes in the Chittagong College, and if these classes are opened more than a score of students will every year pass the B. A. examination from Chittagong. We hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will reconsider his decision.

There was no mention of filtered water-supply in the address. But filtered water has become urgently necessary in Chittagong, which is an important place of pilgrimage. In these days of plague and other epidemics the urgency of placing the water-supply in Chittagong on a sound basis cannot be overrated.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BHAGABHUMI,  
Dec. 26th, 1899.

30. The *Bhagabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December has the following:—

The Government's view of the Bhagalpur disaster.

It appears from the Government Resolutions on the Bhagalpur and Darjeeling disasters that the



first was of a far more serious nature than the second. In Darjeeling only 300 people died in the disaster, while in Bhagalpur 1,643 men and 14,000 cattle were killed, and 25,000 houses were washed away. It is stated in the Bhagalpur Resolution that only Rs. 2,000 was required to help the distressed in that district, and that they only asked for a little money to buy the necessaries of life. It appears from the Resolution that the Government has not been able to fully realise the extent of the distress in Bhagalpur, and that it considers the accounts of the disaster given by native newspapers as exaggerated. We, on our part, fail to understand how the distressed people of Bhagalpur could refuse to accept Government help when 25,000 houses have been washed away. They have lost their wives, daughters, husbands, and sons, and have no roofs to lay their heads under. What good, indeed, will it do to them to avail themselves of Government help! As for warm clothing in this cold season, how can they venture to ask for it? Offended destiny may deprive them at any time of their life as well as of their warm clothing. It must be after mature consideration that the Bhagalpur people have refused Government help. The Government has, however, granted Rs. 11,000 for Bhagalpur and Rs. 6,000 for the Sonthal Parganas as takavi grants, and has ordered the Collectors to inspect the distressed places again.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

31. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 20th December contains a Sanskrit poem in praise of the Lieutenant-Governor and writes as follows:—

SANSODHINI,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Chittagong. It is impossible to get another man with Sir John Woodburn's affability, amiability, and courtesy. No other Lieutenant-Governor stopped for so many days in Chittagong as Sir John Woodburn, or mixed so freely with the Chittagong public. His Honour invited the principal men of the town to his steamer and received them most kindly.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following:—  
On the 1st November last Mr. Buckingham telegraphed to Mr. Cotton to know his opinion on the proposal of the tea planters to apply to the Government for sending coolies to the Assam tea gardens from the famine-stricken districts. Mr. Cotton replied that the tea planters themselves might recruit coolies from among the famine-stricken people without Government help, and reminded them of the risk of sending starving men to the Assam tea gardens. But, in spite of this advice, the tea planters have applied for Government help in recruiting coolies from among the famine-stricken in the Central Provinces. Thus the tea planters are going to set a trap for innocent and ignorant people under the guise of philanthropy. We hope the Viceroy will not be deceived into approving a proposal which has failed to gain the approbation of such a great friend of the tea planters as Mr. Ward, and of such a far-sighted ruler as Mr. Cotton.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

33. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following with reference to the approaching sitting of the Muhammadan Educational Conference:—

BASUMATI,  
Dec. 21st, 1899.

The Muhammadan Educational Conference. The object of the Conference is to devise means for spreading education among the Indian Musalmans, and to afford them greater facilities for qualifying themselves for Government service. This may not be a noble object, but it is certainly an object which is in accord with the spirit of the time. We ought to support all movements, the object of which is to provide natives with facilities for earning a livelihood. Considering that the Government has a great desire to appoint Musalmans to the public service, there can be no doubt that an elementary knowledge of English will enable them to secure public appointments. This will, no doubt, throw an obstacle in the path of the Hindus being appointed to the Government service. But we should not complain on that account. In our opinion, service always exercises a denationalising influence. The more are Hindus deprived of the opportunities for securing posts in the public, the stronger will their national feeling become. On the other hand, Musalman national feeling and



nationality will suffer, as they will be more largely employed in the Government service. The Educational Conference ought to take this point into its consideration.

PRATIKAR,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

34. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 22nd December says that, though a large number of members of the Provincial Committees of the Indian National Congress are known

The Congress.

to be the principal supporters of the latter movement, they, as a matter of fact, give little proof of their earnestness. They might do much by explaining the object of the Congress to the people of India, from the Raja to the poorest raiyat, instead of displaying some energy during the few days that the Congress or the Provincial Conference sits.

HITAVADI,  
Dec. 22nd, 1899.

35. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December writes as follows with reference to the Tilak defamation case:—

The Tilak defamation case.

The *Times of India* of Bombay reprinted from the *Globe* an article containing defamatory remarks on Mr. Tilak and the Brahman community of Bombay. Mr. Tilak lodged a complaint against the editor, but has withdrawn it on the editor's apologising to him. Mr. Tilak instituted legal proceedings five days after the defamatory article had been published in the *Times of India*, but yet the editor said that his attention had not been drawn to the objectionable writing before the case was filed, and that he would have apologised earlier if his attention had been drawn to the matter. But let that pass. Ought not the *Times of India* to apologise to the Bombay Brahman community just as he apologised to Mr. Tilak? It is superfluous to say that any Brahman of Bombay can now prosecute the *Times of India* and compel it to apologise to the Brahman community. The *Jagaddhitechhu* of Poona writes that subscriptions should be raised with the view of prosecuting the *Globe* for calling the Brahmans seditious, as nothing but such a prosecution will bring those maligners to their senses, who are trying to embitter the feeling of the English people against the innocent Indian people. We heartily second our contemporary's proposal.

BANGABHUMI,  
Dec. 26th, 1899.

36. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December has the following:—

Sir John Woodburn's goodness.

A few days ago, when the Lieutenant-Governor was out on a ride, he came across two native gentlemen who *salaamed* to him. His Honour asked them whether they had anything to say to him. One of them replied that he had nothing particular to say except this, that when His Honour was at Fyzabad his father served under him, and he had therefore had occasion to see him before. The Lieutenant-Governor stopped and made many kind enquiries about the gentleman's present circumstances and his family affairs. This trifling incident is a proof of the high-mindedness of our Lieutenant-Governor, and it is by such kind behaviour that high officials gain the respect and gratitude of the people.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Nov. 29th, 1899.

37. Referring to the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* (Bamra, Central Provinces) of the 29th

The Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

November observes that some of the provisions will no doubt prove beneficial to the labourers but the best thing will be to abolish the emigration law altogether and leave cooly recruitment to be guided by the ordinary law of demand and supply. The writer suggests that those women need protection for whom false husbands or parents are set up by unscrupulous recruiters with a view to make their registration and consequent despatch to labour districts much easier.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Dec. 6th, 1899.

38. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* (Balasore) of the 6th December regrets to

Delay in the publication of the results of the examinations in Orissa.

observe that the results of the last Middle English and Middle Vernacular Scholarship examinations, though held in September last, are not yet out, and that the unusual delay is creating great uneasiness in the minds of a large number of candidates, who are impatient to know the results at an early date. The writer hopes that the authorities concerned will publish the results without any more delay.



39. Referring to the treatment accorded to Rai Radhanath Bahadur, Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, by the Government of Bengal in the matter referred to in a recent issue of the Calcutta *Sanjivani*, the same paper approves of the action of Government, and explains that the Rai Bahadur is really a good and great man and has served Government with devotion and loyalty for a large number of years. That he has been let out unharmed is a matter of congratulation to the natives of Orissa, who highly appreciate the generous policy of Government. The writer suggests that should Government resolve to transfer him to another division, a native of Orissa may be allowed to take his place.

URIYA AND  
NAVABAHAD.  
Dec. 6th, 1899.

40. The *Utkaldipika* (Cuttack) of the 16th December is glad to learn that a Munsif's Court will be established at Bhadrak in the month of April next, and observes that this wise measure will give great relief to a large number of suitors, who are now compelled to make long and expensive journeys to the Jajpur and Balasore munsifis.

UTKALDIPKA,  
Dec. 16th, 1899.

41. The same paper is credibly informed that a large number of men and cattle have been carried off by man-eating tigers in the Tributary State of Dhenkanal. That portion of the State which lies between Mahisiapat and Kapilas is in great distress. The writer attributes the frequency of attacks by tigers to the stringency of forest rules under which *jungles* are fast extending, giving shelter to tigers and other ferocious beasts, and hopes that the authorities will take early steps to protect human life.

UTKALDIPKA.

42. Referring to the increase of revenue from the sale of court-fee stamps in the past year, the same paper points out that Government should take early steps to introduce reforms into the existing courts of justice, whereby justice may be secured at a less cost without much waste of time, for litigation has proved to be a curse and is eating into the vitals of the Indian nation.

UTKALDIPKA.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

43. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 30th November says that 70,000 troops are being sent to the Transvaal. They will attack the Boers in three divisions. General Buller has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the three divisions. These three divisions will attack the Transvaal and the Orange Free State from three different directions. The Boers are elated with their success in some petty engagements. But the British will now crush them with one blow.

SILCHAR,  
Nov. 30th, 1899.

44. The same paper has the following:—  
Lord Curzon does not like to see wants and grievances mentioned in the addresses given to the high officials, and was delighted to find the Delhi address free from such things. Many of our contemporaries do not agree with His Excellency, and want to know to whom the people should complain if not to their rulers. We admit that the grievances of the people should be made known to their rulers, but not in the way now in vogue. Their representations should be made in petitions and applications on occasions other than state visits.

SILCHAR.

45. The same paper writes as follows:—  
The list of text-books for each division in Bengal has been published, but in Assam these lists are never revised, and the same text-books have been taught for half a century.

SILCHAR.

46. The same paper says that Mr. Cumming, Assistant Commissioner of Cachar, does not know Bengali, and is unacquainted with his district. We learn from a trustworthy source that most of the criminal cases are being dismissed by him. If criminal cases are dismissed in this way, *badmashes* will feel encouraged.

47. The same paper has the following:—  
The Government has dismissed Rao Saheb Radhanath Rai, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Orissa Circle, and has also deprived him of his title.

SILCHAR.



for not sending to Government his book containing patriotic sentiments. Babu Nabin Chandra Sen has also been asked to remove certain patriotic passages from his "Palasir Yuddha." What has the world come to? The Arms Act has disarmed the people. The Sedition Law has deprived the Press of its liberty, and now the people are going to be prevented from writing a patriotic sentence or two. We were savages, and you have made us men. If you wish to bind us hard and fast, we have no objection. We are ready to put up with any sort of treatment you may accord to us.

SILCHAR,  
Dec. 15th, 1899.

48. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 15th December says that Kali Pada Datta, writer-constable of the Katlichhara outpost in Cachar, has been transferred to a bad station on the hilly frontiers of Naogaon for the offence of beating a European. He has been rightly served. Is it possible that a native who beats a European should escape scot free? It was fortunate for Kali Pada that Mr. Graham, Subdivisional Officer of Hailakandi, was present in the place, and Kali Pada had gone to get coolies for him. Otherwise he might have lost his service. Even a man like Mr. Pennell was punished for only making reflections against his own countrymen; should a black native escape after beating a white European? If he had not been a police officer, Kali Pada might have been cast into jail. The writer has nothing to complain of in connection with the rather lenient punishment which has been inflicted on him. But was it right to punish Kali Pada in order to please Mr. Teed, the man, that is, who obstructed Kali Pada in the execution of his duty, and by insulting him, insulted the District Superintendent of Police, nay, the Government itself?

SILCHAR.

49. The same paper complains that no blankets are given to the prisoners in the Cachar police lock-up even at night during the cold season.

A jail complaint.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 30th December, 1899.



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